

law." Protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

Yet, Madam Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

But perhaps tonight, Madam Speaker, maybe someone new who hears this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that can never be expressed, and that 12,819 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough, and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn children than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time. And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of the innocent unborn. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is February 27, 2008, 12,819 days since *Roe v. Wade* first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children. This, in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOEBSACK). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HAYES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and thank you again to the Speaker of the House, Ms. PELOSI, for giving the opportunity to the 30-Something Working Group to come to the floor once again to talk about some of the great progress that we believe this House is making on behalf of our constituents, the American people.

We are going to have an abbreviated edition of the 30-Somethings today, and I am going to turn this over to Mr. MEEK in a moment.

But suffice it to say that once again I think we did some justice when it comes to energy policy on the floor this week. We have passed, once again, a bill that will extend enormous tax benefits to thousands of Americans and, even more, small businessmen and the people who profit from those businesses, who work for those businesses, so that they can invest in the new American economy that is the green economy and do it through no additional cost to the taxpayers by simply repealing billions of dollars that we have given to the oil industry under the Republican Congress and turn those tax subsidies around to average consumers and average small businesses who are now going to do right by this new renewable economy that we are building.

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It is a start. It is not everything. We have not done a 180 on energy policy, but we are beginning what will be a long but continuous path to energy independence.

And I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK).

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. MURPHY, it is an honor to be on the floor with you. We appreciate all that you have done during your time here in Congress.

I can tell you, Mr. MURPHY, one of the very important measures that passed today on the House floor was the energy bill, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act, and

I think it is important as we look at this piece of legislation because it is actually paid for, and we pay for it with the subsidies that previous Congresses gave big oil companies, those subsidies they didn't ask for. Well, maybe they did ask for them.

I had a chart, Mr. MURPHY, in previous Congresses that I used to bring to the floor. I am talking about the meeting Vice President DICK CHENEY had in 2001 in his office with all of the major oil executives, and in that chart it showed how profits went up from that point on.

"Profits" is not a bad word, but when you look at it, especially in how the big oil companies increased prices on individuals that were not only paying taxes, U.S. taxpayers that were paying for the subsidies they were getting, but also were paying more at the pump, and it is so very, very important that we identify that and reverse that.

This piece of legislation that we passed today actually does that, H.R. 5351. So many times in America, Americans, they look at Congress and they look at what we do and how we do it and they don't quite understand how it happens to them twice: A, we are subsidizing big oil companies; and, B, why are they paying more for gas.

What we have done in this Congress and in previous energy bills that we have passed, we have focused on green and focused on innovation and focused on how can ethanol, and we focused on making sure that cars can go further with less.

We have also stood under the banner of investing in the Midwest versus the Middle East. And I think it is important that we continue with that theme. Today's legislation that passed the floor continues that theme.

I talked a little earlier about the big five oil companies that recently reported record profits in 2007. Exxon earned \$40.6 billion, the largest corporate profit in the history of the United States of America. Some of that came about because of the tax dollars being generated back into dollars that they didn't have to spend. Usually with profits of any business, you take those dollars out to be able to do more and better in the future. Well, we don't have a problem with that happening, but we don't want it to be on the backs of the U.S. taxpayers.

I also think, Mr. MURPHY, one other point that I want to make, with the economy now and how these energy prices continue to squeeze American families, I think it is important that since August, when the House took up the bill, and the price of oil has risen almost \$25 per barrel to a new record high of \$102 per barrel today. Gas is up 17 cents a gallon in the last 2 weeks, and up 75 cents from a year ago. Gas prices also doubled on home heating costs, and tripled on American families since 2001.

When we start looking at those statistics, we have to do something about